



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6480

LCO No. 2951



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF EEL GRASS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The co-chairpersons and ranking
2 members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
3 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment shall convene
4 a working group on the restoration of eel grass along the state's
5 shoreline. Such working group shall consist of members of shoreline
6 conservation commissions, members of municipal shellfish
7 commissions, a marine biologist from The University of Connecticut at
8 Avery Point, a student from the Marine Science Magnet School in
9 Groton and Save the Sound's Long Island Soundkeeper. The co-
10 chairpersons, in consultation with the ranking members, of said joint
11 standing committee shall select the members and chairperson of such
12 working group. The chairperson of such working group shall
13 commence the first meeting of such working group not later than thirty
14 days after the effective date of this section. Such working group shall
15 develop strategies for the preservation, restoration and expansion of eel
16 grass along the state's shoreline. In developing such strategies, the

17 working group shall review and synthesize information from studies
18 performed by the states of New York and Rhode Island, including, but
19 not limited to, Tier 1 mapping of *Zostera marina* in Long Island Sound
20 and change analysis performed by the University of Rhode Island. Not
21 later than February 1, 2024, the chairperson of such working group shall
22 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
23 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
24 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment
25 detailing the work of such working group, including, but not limited to,
26 explanations of any such strategies and identification of any priority
27 areas of the shoreline for the implementation of such strategies.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a working group to identify ways to restore eel grass along the state's shoreline.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]